

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 36-45, 47-50, 52 and 54-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi (JP 2000-331557) in view of Mizuno (JP 2000-329577) and further in view of Ericsson (U.S. 6,130,665). Further, claims 46, 51 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi in view of Mizuno and Storm (U.S. 6,527,555). Independent claims 36, 58 and 66 have been amended to further distinguish the present invention recited therein from the references relied upon in the rejection. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the above-mentioned rejections are inapplicable to amended independent claims 36, 58, and 66, and the claims that depend therefrom for the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 36 recites a transmission type display (1) mounted at a first location in a vehicle, operable to (2) transmit light there through and display images thereon, and (3) having a touch panel. Further, claim 36 recites a rearward display (4) mounted at a second location in the vehicle such that (5) a gap is formed between the transmission type display and the rearward display, and such that (6) the rearward display can be seen through the transmission type display. Taniguchi, Mizuno, and Ericsson, or any combination thereof, fail to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features (1)-(6) as recited in independent claim 36.

In rejecting claim 36, the Examiner relies on Taniguchi for teaching the transmission type display having the touch panel function and the rearward display. Further, the Examiner relies on Ericsson for teaching that the touch panel function of the transmission type display is operable to display images thereon (see item 9 on page 3 of Office Action). Specifically, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to replace the touch panel of Taniguchi with the touch panel of Ericsson (see item 10 on pages 3 and 4 of Office Action). Accordingly, the Examiner asserts that the combined disclosure of the display 3 of Taniguchi and the touchscreen and overlay of Ericsson discloses the features of claim 36.

However, it is clear that Taniguchi discloses a device having a touch panel 2 and a display 3 (see Fig. 1), and Ericsson teaches a screen having (i) overlay for displaying a

keypad, the overlay being disposed on top of (ii) a touchscreen/display (see col. 4, lines 38-43). Therefore, replacing the touch panel 2 of Taniguchi with the screen (i.e., the touchscreen and overlay of Ericsson), as suggested by the Examiner, results in a display 3 having a touchscreen (capable of displaying images) disposed thereon and an overlay disposed on top of the touchscreen. As a result of this combination, a user would be able to view the keypad of the overlay and the images displayed on the touchscreen. However, a viewer would not be able to view the display 3 (of Taniguchi), since Ericsson does not disclose that the touchscreen is transparent such that the display 3 can be seen through the touchscreen.

Thus, in view of the above, it is clear that the combined disclosure of Taniguchi and Ericsson is not a disclosure or suggestion of a transmission type display operable to transmit light there through, operable to display images thereon, and having a touch panel, and a rearward display that can be seen through the transmission type display, as recited in claim 36. In other words, the Examiner equates the display 3 of Taniguchi with the rearward display of claim 36. However, the combined disclosure of Taniguchi and Ericsson is not a disclosure or suggestion that the display 3 can be seen through the touchscreen of Ericsson, as required by claim 36.

It is also noted that according to the combination of Taniguchi and Ericsson the display 3, the touchscreen, and the overlay are disposed on top of each other. However, Taniguchi and Ericsson do not disclose or suggest that the transmission type display is mounted at a first location in a vehicle and the rearward display is mounted at a second location in the vehicle, such that a gap is formed between the transmission type display and the rearward display.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of Taniguchi and Ericsson does not suggest the above-discussed limitations of claim 36. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Taniguchi and/or Ericsson references so as to obtain the invention of amended independent claim 36. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 36 and the claims that depend therefrom are clearly allowable over any combination of Taniguchi and Ericsson.

Regarding Mizuno and Storm, these references also do not disclose or suggest any of the above-discussed features of independent claim 36, which are lacking from Taniguchi and Ericsson. As a result, the above-mentioned references, individually or collectively, fail to anticipate or render obvious each feature recited in independent claim 36 or the claims that depend therefrom.

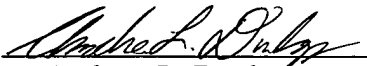
Amended independent claim 58 recites a display apparatus having a transmission type display and a rearward display, wherein the transmission type display and the rearward display are arranged and operate in a similar manner as recited in amended independent claim 36 (i.e., transmission type display is located at a first location, rearward display is located at a second position such that a gap is formed, etc.). Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 58-65 are allowable over the Taniguchi, Mizuno, Ericsson, and Storm references.

Amended independent claim 66 recites an on-board display apparatus mounted on a vehicle having a transmission type display and a rearward display, wherein the transmission type display and the rearward display are arranged and operate in a similar manner as recited in amended independent claim 36 (i.e., transmission type display is located at a forward location, rearward display is located at a rearward position such that a gap is formed, etc.). Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 66-69 are allowable over the Taniguchi, Mizuno, Ericsson, and Storm references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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